

Message Text

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QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05345

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UK
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: "POMPIDOU GROUP" MEETING, MARCH 25

1. DURING DISCUSSION OF UNFDAC FUNDING MARCH 29,
GEOFFREY DEDENEY, HEAD, DRUGS BRANCH, HOME OFFICE, MADE
SEVERAL INTERESTING COMMENTS ABOUT "POMPIDOU GROUP"
MEETING HELD MARCH 25. HE DESCRIBED HIS INTERVENTION
ON BEHALF UNFDAC AND LAMENTED THAT "AS USUAL" GROUP'S
RESPONSE WAS TEPID. HE SAID THAT EFFORTS TO FOCUS
GROUP'S ATTENTION ON ITEMS OF POTENTIAL SUBSTANCE GENER-
ALLY MEET WITH A COLD SHOULDER.

2. DEDENEY ATTRIBUTES THIS TO GENERAL LACK OF ENTHUS-
IASM ON PART OF FRENCH OFFICIALDOM. HE
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PAGE 02 STATE 075295

SAID THAT "ALL THE RUNNING HAS BEEN MADE BY PONIATOWSKI"
AND HE QUESTIONS FUTURE OF GROUP NOW THAT HE IS BEING
REPLACED. IF LEFT TO FRENCH OFFICIALS, DEDENEY FEELS
"POMPIDOU INITIATIVE" WILL BECOME MORIBUND ONCE AGAIN.

3. GROUP SPENT MOST OF MARCH 25 MEETING WORKING ON
AGENDA FOR FALL MINISTERIAL. KEY QUESTION IS WHO WILL

BE SELECTED TO TAKE OVER CHAIR FOR NEXT TWO-YEAR PERIOD. SWEDES HAVE ALREADY ASKED DEDENEY IF UK WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT CHAIR. DEDENEY RESPONDED THAT THERE ARE OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP WITH MORE SIGNIFICANT DRUG PROBLEMS AND IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR ONE OF THEM TO TAKE THE CHAIR. HE CITED FRG AS BEST EXAMPLE.

4. COMMENT. DEDENEY WOULD PERSONALLY ENJOY HAVING UK IN CHAIR FOR NEXT TWO YEARS. HE SAYS HE WOULD RELISH OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP GROUP INTO POSITIVE FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL DRUG SCENE. UNFORTUNATELY, UK SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE OVER THIS RESPONSIBILITY. COSTS OF HOSTING MEETINGS AND PROVIDING SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION FOR WHAT IS ADMITTEDLY LOW-PRIORITY ITEM IN OVERALL UK GOVERNMENT PROGRAM WOULD BE PROHIBITIVE. THEREFORE, DEDENEY PLANS TO LOBBY FELLOW GROUP MEMBERS TO SUPPORT FRG CHAIRMANSHIP. SPIRES UNQTE VANCE

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